



Big Sky Libraries

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Montana State Library [MSL]

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Goodbye, Friends!

We start the New Year by saying goodbye to three librarians who have served their communities and Montana for a combined total of seventy-five years.

Lee Kuhr, the Director of the Blaine County Library, leaves to enjoy retirement with her husband. Lee managed the library for 12 years and worked there for four years before becoming director. Her fellow Pathfinder federation members, Blaine County residents, and the state library staff will miss Lee's upbeat spirit and her intelligent advice.



Delores Drennen

Delores Drennen leaves her position of Director of the Miles City Library to join her husband in retirement. Delores worked at the library for 18 years before the board appointed her director in 1989. Delores was also the Sagebrush Federation Coordinator and the project manager of the SLATE project that first brought Internet access to several libraries in eastern Montana. Federation members and state library staff commend Delores for her outstanding service.

Karen Hatcher, Dean of the UM's Mansfield Library, also ended a long and distinguished service to UM's faculty, students and Montana's library community. Karen worked at the library for 31 years. She filled several positions at the library before being appointed dean of library services in 1990, including director of technical services, coordinator of technical services and associate professor, head catalog librarian, and assistant catalog librarian. Karen will continue to be of service to Montana libraries through her new position as Montana Library Association's administrative assistant.



Karen Hatcher

Karen, Delores, and Lee provided leadership and service to their communities and to Montana libraries. They deserve our thanks and applause for their dedication and our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.



The "Book Marks" performed for the MSL Commission and for the MSL staff during December. The Book Marks are MSL staff members Christie Briggs, Diane Gunderson and Cheryl Christopher.

Calendar

For more information on these and other Montana Library events, visit our web calendar: <http://msl.state.mt.us/calendar.html>

- January 25 - Law Revision Task Force Meeting
- January 28 - Networking Task Force Meeting
- February 3 - Summitnet Executive Council Meeting
- February 9 - Commission Meeting
- February 15 - BCR Workshop: Internet Search Engines
- February 16 - BCR Workshop: Web Design II: Tables, Forms & Frames
- February 17 - Web Design III: Advanced HTML, CSS and Scripts
- February 18 - Training for Technology Trainers
- February 25-26 - Offline 2000 at the Great Falls Public Library

A Word From Our State Librarian



My calendar says its time to reflect on last year's activities and set some goals for 2000. Here are some of my reflections.



Successes:

- Funding for the periodical database
- Changes in law to allow federations to become multi-type
- Changes in public library law to allow voters to approve multi-year increases in library levies
- Madison County Library project
- Planning process in two departments of MSL
- Visits to more libraries
- Closer relationships with OCLC
- Joined BCR
- Completed LSCA funded library buildings in Sheridan and Dillon
- Start up of the Montana Library Network
- Held first annual Fall workshop

Disappointments:

- Failure of the district library law (by six votes on the third reading in the House, in case you forgot)
- End of LSCA building funds. (Yes, I knew it was coming, but after the paperwork for the building at Dillon was signed, I mourned the loss of federal support for library buildings).

Must do:

- Remember to seek the views and opinions from all when developing plans
- Visit more libraries
- Develop an achievable and important legislative package and support for it
- Follow through with new directions in NRIS and Library and Information Services
- Say thank you more often to staff, Commission, Task Force, and Advisory Council members, and all of you

Karen's Schedule:

Jan. 25 - Law Revision Task Force Meeting
January 28 - Networking Task Force Meeting
February 3 - SummitNet Executive Council Meeting
February 9 - Commission Meeting
February 11 - MLA Board Meeting

Montana Library Network [MLN] Progress Made to Date

At the dawn of year 2000, the Montana Library Network has moved several big steps closer to its goals. We have a:

- Strategic plan and budget, built from the comments of hundreds of Montana librarians (see <http://msl.state.mt.us/mln/goa.pdf> and <http://msl.state.mt.us/mln/budget.pdf>);
- Secure, robust home at the State's Information Services Division for MLN's server; and
- Signed contract with OCLC, licensing SiteSearch software to build the MLN web site (providing catalog, resource sharing and access to selected Montanan resources).

Calendar year 2000 looks to be an exciting and very busy year.

Montana Certification Program

Congratulations to the following library directors and staff members who were recently certified through the *Montana Certification Program*:

New Applicants: Dale Alger, Roundup, Colet Bartow, Manhattan, Nancy Bostrom, West Yellowstone, Nancy Egeland, Livingston, Colleen Ferguson, Anaconda, Cindy Hargas, Townsend, Julie Herdina, Manhattan, and Emory Robotham, Glasgow.

Renewal Applicants: Heidi Alford, Shelby, Fredrica K. Obrigewitch, Three Forks.

If you would like a certification manual or have questions, contact Diane Gunderson at 1-800-338-5087 or e-mail: dgunderson@state.mt.us.

Gates Foundation Grants

Applications from eligible public libraries are due at the Gates Foundation by Monday, January 30. Call the state library or the Foundation at 1-206-709-3100 if you have any questions about the process. The Foundation will evaluate the applications in February and March and make awards in the early spring.

Great News on OCLC Contract

The Montana Library Network [MLN], an MSL project, has negotiated a \$275,057 statewide contract for OCLC services during fiscal year 2001, July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. All Montana libraries are eligible to participate. This contract will replace the statewide LaserCat purchase arrangement currently in force. LaserCat will still be available through this contract.

An enrollment form will be sent in February. This is a first for OCLC and a first for Montana. Included in the contract are:

1. Online interlibrary loan services;
2. Web-based copy-cataloging using OCLC's CatExpress, or LaserCat; original cataloging for those current online cataloging OCLC members, and
3. Reference access to OCLC's 47 million title WorldCat database, via OCLC's FirstSearch interface (through MLN's server, serving in-library and remote users).

Our agreement is a fixed-cost contract, that is, not based on transactions. It will cost your library the same no matter how much you use these services—this will be great for new-comers to OCLC's services, as well as to Montana libraries with OCLC experience. And the price will be right—your library may save money and, in most cases, will have access to substantially more services. OCLC/WLN or BCR will bill your library directly.

Here's a preliminary price breakdown, subject to modification. Actual costs will be included with the enrollment form to be mailed in February. Your library's cost will be based on one of three scenarios:

1. **LaserCat Libraries**—If during fiscal year 1999 (July 1998 through June 1999) your library was a LaserCat or FastCat library, and was *not* an online WLN or OCLC library, your library's FY2001 share will be about what you paid during FY1999 for these products [typically \$365 for single-issue subscribers and \$787 for quarterly LaserCat subscribers]. This is what your library will get:

- Online interlibrary loan, using MLN's web based system and OCLC's text based system
- Copy-cataloging records from OCLC's 47 million title database, or from LaserCat
- Reference access to OCLC's WorldCat
- Item-by-item retrospective conversion (not batch) for adding your library's records to WorldCat

2. **Currently Online Libraries**—If your library had an online subscription to WLN or OCLC services, you will be assessed a discounted rate based on your total WLN and OCLC bills for fiscal year 1999. Contact Bruce Newell (406) 444-9816 or bnewell@state.mt.us to discuss your library's estimated cost. Included in your cost will be access to WorldCat. OCLC original cataloging and OCLC ILL lending credits will still be in force in addition to the terms of this agreement. In addition to the four bulleted items directly above, current direct-connect libraries will have access to PRISM for original cataloging.

3. **Non-WLN or OCLC Libraries**—If during FY1999 your library had neither LaserCat, or FastCat, and was not an online library, then your library's share will be based either on its materials budget or its collection size. These libraries will receive the same services as those in 'LaserCat Libraries' (1) above. Preliminary prices are estimated to be:

- Libraries who did not purchase LaserCat during fiscal years 1998 or 1999, and with materials expenditures greater than \$9,001 will pay \$787.
- Libraries with materials expenditures between \$9,000 and 7,001 will pay \$365.
- Libraries with materials expenditures between \$7,000 and 4,001 will pay \$295.
- Libraries with materials expenditures less than \$4,001 will pay \$195.
- As a final option (for libraries with small but expensive collections), libraries with less than 2,000 combined monograph and serial titles will pay \$365.

While your library is not required to purchase

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Legislative Planning for 2001

Planning for the 2001 the legislative session begins in earnest in January. The Law Revision Task Force has been considering changes to public library law and different ways of distributing state aid to public libraries for the last six months. They plan to have concepts for legislation or budget requests to the Commission by the February 9 meeting. For more information on these tentative proposals, you can contact any member of the Task Force.

The Commission will consider other proposals for the agency's legislative package. These requests might include funds to continue the purchase of a periodical database(s), requests for more staff at MSL, and a proposal to restructure the way that the NRIS program is funded.

The Governor's budget office requires that state agencies submit funding proposals in April 2000. The schedule requires the Commission and MSL staff to use the next three months to prepare documentation and support for any new projects. They also hope to work hand-in-hand with MLA as the Association develops their legislative agenda.

Law Revision Task Force Members

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Represents federation coordinators

LSTA Grant Award Received

The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced the FY 2000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) state grant awards. These funds are administered by state library agencies in each state. Montana's award for 2000 is \$724,975, a slight increase from last year's award. LSTA provides funding for MSL's library development and continuing education activities, three statewide technology consultant positions, and the Talking Book Library program. This year, LSTA grant funds

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OCCLC Contract (Continued from page 3)

OCCLC services via Montana's statewide contract, you'll want to think twice before you pass up this deal. Contact: Bruce Newell or members of the MSL LDD team (<http://msl.state.mt.us/mln/contacts.htm>).

Note: "...OCCLC's proposal assumes all current online cataloging members (whether through OCCLC/WLN or BCR) will continue to be online cataloging members, and the remainder will use either CatExpress or LaserCat. The CatExpress [or LaserCat] service is for copy cataloging only. So, those libraries that use CatExpress [or LaserCat] will need to find a resource for original cataloging. A common solution is for one (or more) of the online cataloging members to act as an "agent" to do original cataloging on behalf of the CatExpress [or LaserCat] users. The online cataloging member can catalog online, using the OCCLC symbol of the CatExpress [or LaserCat] library." Anita Reeb, OCCLC, [bracketed material Bruce Newell].

Notes From MSL

At the December 7 meeting in Helena, the Commission heard reports on the reorganization of the Library and Information Service Department and the NRIS planning process. The Commission approved the FY 2000 budget for federal funds, including the Montana Library Network, and a change in the LSTA Contingency Funding policy.

The Library Services Advisory Council advanced two recommendations to the Commission. The first recommendation was to authorize a study of institutional library services in Montana. The Commission delegated this task to a special committee and the State Librarian. The Council also recommended that the Commission discuss the viability of the Council and consider how best to use the Council's talents. Because the Executive Order that established the Council expires in May 2001, the Commission will continue to consider this question at future meetings.

David Johnson was elected Chair and Rosemary Garvey, Butte, vice-chair.

Commission schedule for 2000: After the February meeting, the Commission plans to hold at least one meeting outside of Helena. Meeting notifications, including locations, agenda, and times will be available on Wired-Mt and MSL's homepage [<http://msl.state.mt.us/>]. Meeting dates for 2000 will be **February 9, April 12, June 14, August 9, October 11, December 13.**



TBL Stocking

TBL Christmas Stocking: Every year the Montana Intermountain Children's Home in Helena hosts *The Festival of Trees*, a fundraiser held at the Helena Civic Center. Talking Book Library [TBL] staff, under the leadership of Carolyn Meier, Circulation Clerk, has this year decided to create a Christmas "stocking." Each TBL staff person

made a part of the stocking, which was five quilting squares sewn onto a large stocking with a quilted neck. They were pleasantly surprised to learn that their stocking received a prize, and helped to provide support for a worthy cause.

LSTA Grant Awards (Continued from page 4)

will also be used for a Library Improvement Project for Lake County and continuation of the development of the Montana Library Network. These funding priorities were established by the Montana State Library Commission.

GIS Day

The inaugural GIS Day was held November 19, 1999. This global event gave users of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology the opportunity to showcase real-world GIS applications for schools, businesses, and the general public.

GIS Day, a grassroots event, is an extension of the National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week. The goal is to create a single, annual, worldwide event that effectively communicates the benefits and significance of GIS. This technology represents computer software, data and solutions to help solve problems with environmental protection, health care, land use, business efficiency, education, and social inequities. There are currently more than 2,000,000 GIS users in the world, but most of the public is unaware of this important and growing technology.

Several GIS Day events were held throughout Montana. NRIS, along with other Helena area GIS professionals hosted a GIS Day Open House that included activity booths for hands-on experiences and displays explaining how GIS is used locally. A computer lab was available with web sites bookmarked so participants could find GIS information on the Internet. Close to 200 people attended the event including 104 elementary students from five classes. Also, several map galleries were setup throughout the Helena area at schools, public libraries, and the shopping mall during Geography Awareness Week.

For statewide information check <http://nr.is.state.mt.us/wis/mtgisday.html>. For national and global information check <http://www.gisday.com/>. The next GIS Day will be Wednesday, November 15, 2000, during Geography Awareness Week, November 13-17, 2000. Check the web sites as the date gets closer for more information.



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Carol Churchill,
Accounting Technician

Spotlight: Carol Churchill, Accounting Technician

Carol Churchill is the accounting technician for MSL. She does a variety of accounting jobs including payroll, accounts payable and receivable, contract billing, and property management.

Carol is originally from Hood River, Oregon, which she describes as a very nice place on the Columbia River. She served in the Air Force for four years, assigned to Malmstrom Air Force Base near Great Falls, Montana. Carol found basic training to be "awful but the Air Force wasn't bad." Her start in Montana was stormy, "When I first got to Malmstrom Air Force Base I think the storm of the year hit Great Falls. It was freezing and snowing and I had not been issued my parka yet!" Carol's first job on base was as telephone operator, a job she found fun. She operated an old fashion switchboard. She had a top-secret security clearance. Her next job was in the telecommunications division where messages were received and distributed all over the base. She operated the base computer system on the night shift and then had a computer job on the day shift.

Once out of the service Carol worked for the City of Great Falls as a clerk at the police station and city court. There she met some very interesting people and heard some *very* interesting stories!

Carol married Jerry in 1989. They moved to Helena in 1991 where Carol got a job with the Department of Public Health and Human Services as a receptionist and has worked for the state ever since.

Carol and Jerry have two children, Chuck, seven and Sarah, two. Carol says, "My children keep me busy most of the time, but I do like to play tennis and bingo, and go to garage sales."